

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /053 W

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R 040945Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3342

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4322

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 DAILY SITREP APRIL 2

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM BIEN HOA'S 151, APRIL 3,
REPEATED FOR YOU. QUOTE:

BIEN HOA 151

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 DAILY SITREP - APRIL 2, 1974

REF: BIEN HOA 148 AND 150

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL FOR THE 24 HOURS
ENDING 0800 APRIL 3 WITH 51 INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT MR 3. DAILY
AVERAGE FOR WEEK ENDING 0800 APRIL 2 WAS 54 INCIDENTS. HAU NGHIA
ACCOUNTED FOR 37 PERCENT OF THE APRIL 2 INCIDENTS BUT ACTION
SHIFTED FROM DUC HUE RANGER CAMP IN WESTERN HAU NGHIA TO CU CHI,
TRANG BANG AND DUC HOA DISTRICTS. ENEMY FORCES FIRED ARTILLERY
AND MORTAR BARRAGES (49 ROUNDS) AGAINST ARVN AND RF UNIT POSITIONS
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IN CU CHI AND TRANG BANG DISTRICTS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. IN 4

CONTACTS 7 KMS NORTH OF CU CHI ON APRIL 2, THE NEWLY CREATED 315TH MOBILE STRIKE FORCE (PARA 3) ACCOUNTED FOR 23 ENEMY KIA AND 1 CIA (FROM THE 1ST BN, 271ST REG., 9TH NVA DIVISION) WHILE TAKING LOSSES OF 8 WIA. A CONTACT 6 KMS NE OF TRANG BANG, IN WHICH THE 319TH RF BN WAS INVOLVED, RESULTED IN 7 FRIENDLY WIA, ENEMY UNKNOWN. A PATROL ELEMENT OF THE 303RD RF BN CONTACTED USEF 7 KMS WEST OF DUC HOA RESULTING IN 2 FRIENDLY KIA, 14 WIA AND ENEMY LOSSES UNKNOWN.

2. TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION, MR 3 HQS HAS DRAWN FROM THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE TO CREATE TWO MOBILE STRIKE FORCES, THE 315TH AND 318TH TO MEET THE NEW THREAT IN WESTERN MR 3. THE STRIKE FORCES ARE COMPOSED OF THE 15TH AND 18TH CAVALRY, RESPECTIVELY, AND ELEMENTS OF THE 36TH RANGER GROUP. THE 315TH IS BASED IN THE PHU HOA AREA (NORTHEAST OF CU CHI) AND THE 318TH IS BASED ALONG LTL 19 FROM TRANG BANG TOWARDS KHIEM HANH.

3. MR 3 HQS NOW HAS REASON TO SUSPECT THAT THE 15TH AND 24TH INDEPENDENT NVA REGIMENTS OF VC MR-2 ARE INVOLVED IN THE DUC HUE ACTION AS WELL AS THE E-6 REGT, 5TH NVA. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO CONFIRMATION AS YET. THE 9TH BN, E-6 REGT, NOW LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AT ABOUT XT 3212, WAS INITIALLY DEPLOYED TO AMBUSH ARVN 46TH REGT ENROUTE TO REINFORCE DUC HUE BASE. IT WAS DETECTED AND DRIVEN OUT OF ITS AMBUSH POSITION BACK TOWARD CAMBODIA.

4. ARTILLERY AT DUC HUE IS BELIEVED TO BE MAINLY FROM D-22 BN/ 5TH NVA (ONLY KNOWN 5TH DIV UNIT WITH 120MM MORTARS) AND ELEMENTS OF THE 42ND HOWITZER REGT/69TH NVA ARTY GROUP. ELEMENTS OF THE 75TH ARTY GROUP (AKA 69TH) ARE BELIEVED TO BE ATTACHED TO NVA 5TH FOR AA SUPPORT FOR THE DUC HUE ACTION.

5. AN AGENT REPORTS HAVING SEEN LIGHTS ON 20 VEHICLES MOVING FROM CHI PHU (XT 1120) TOWARDS PARROT'S BEAK ON NIGHT OF MARCH 30 BELIEVED TO BE ARTY, ROCKET, AND AMMO RESUPPLY TRUCKS. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THESE WERE TANKS.

6. ANOTHER AGENT REPORTED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 29/30 4 TANKS (NFI) DEPARTED CHI PHU, CAMBODIA (XT 1120) MOVING EASTWARD.

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7. MR 3 HQS NOW BELIEVES THAT THE NVA 5TH DIV IS ENGAGED IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO TAKE DUC HUE AND TRANG BANG DISTRICTS OF HAU NGHIA LINKING WITH THE NVA 9TH DIV AND OTHER NVA UNITS IN THE HAU NGHIA/TAY NINH/BINH DUONG TRI-BORDER AREA TO ISOLATE TAY NINH PROVINCE. THIS MOVE WOULD CUT ROUTE 1 LEADING TO TAY NINH, RE-ESTABLISH THE SHORT SUPPLY ROUTE FROM CAMBODIA TO HO BO/BOI LOI WOODS AREA INTERDICTED BY THE GVN SINCE 1970, AND OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING TAY NINH CITY, THUS REALIZING A PRG GOAL OF

CONTROLLING A MAJOR POPULATION CENTER IN THE SOUTH.

8. ELSEWHERE IN MR 3 MILITARY ACTION WAS SCATTERED, CONSISTING
MAINLY OF ABF'S AND SMALL UNIT CONTACTS. THERE WERE 8 INCIDENTS
IN BINH LONG, 7 IN PHUOC TUY AND 4 EACH IN TAY NINH AND BIEN HOA,
NONE OF THEM MAJOR. SIGNED PETERS UNQUOTE.
MARTIN

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NNN

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